

of origin. Like Japanese-Americans, they were subjected to all manner of civil rights violations including curfews, warrantless searches, summary arrests, exclusions, relocations and even internment.

The United States must accept responsibility for its grievous treatment of Italian-Americans during World War II. To this end, Senator TORRICELLI has introduced S. 1909, the Wartime Violation of Italian-American Civil Liberties Act, a bill to require the Justice Department to make a full accounting of the injustices suffered by Italian-Americans during World War II. After the Justice Department completes its report, the President would formally acknowledge these injustices.

I am pleased to cosponsor this overdue legislation. Although it may be painful to revisit and admit to the mistakes made during this time, I hope my colleagues would agree that it is the necessary and right thing to do.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Monday, June 12, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,648,173,825,800.99 (Five trillion, six hundred forty-eight billion, one hundred seventy-three million, eight hundred twenty-five thousand, eight hundred dollars and ninety-nine cents).

Five years ago, June 12, 1995, the Federal debt stood at \$4,901,416,000,000 (Four trillion, nine hundred one billion, four hundred sixteen million).

Ten years ago, June 12, 1990, the Federal debt stood at \$3,120,196,000,000 (Three trillion, one hundred twenty billion, one hundred ninety-six million).

Fifteen years ago, June 12, 1985, the Federal debt stood at \$1,766,703,000,000 (One trillion, seven hundred sixty-six billion, seven hundred three million).

Twenty-five years ago, June 12, 1975, the Federal debt stood at \$527,785,000,000 (Five hundred twenty-seven billion, seven hundred eighty-five million) which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion—\$5,120,388,825,800.99 (Five trillion, one hundred twenty billion, three hundred eighty-eight million, eight hundred twenty-five thousand, eight hundred dollars and ninety-nine cents) during the past 25 years.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

VIRGINIA TECH'S CLASS OF 2000

• Mr. WARNER. Last month, I had the privilege of addressing the graduating class at Virginia Tech University. During the commencement ceremony, three Virginia Tech students, Class President Lauren Esleeck, Graduate Student Representative Timothy Wayne Mays, and Class Treasurer Rush K. Middleton, addressed the graduating

class and those in attendance. The speeches given by these three students were so eloquent and so inspiring, that I felt it was important to share them with my colleagues in the United States Senate and with the people of the United States.

To date, I have been able to obtain copies of Ms. Esleeck's speech and Mr. Middleton's speech. It is my pleasure to ask that these speeches be inserted into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

The speeches follow:

SPEECH OF RUSH K. MIDDLETON, CLASS
TREASURER

Only July 4th, 1939, Lou Gehrig, recently diagnosed with a terminal illness that would cripple and kill him in the prime of his life, stood before 60,000 adoring fans at Yankee Stadium and proclaimed, "I consider myself the luckiest man on the face of the earth."

How could a man who was so surely facing death profess that he was more blessed than those who sat around him and viewed their own deaths as nothing more than a distant shadow. The answer is quite simple: Lou Gehrig did not measure his fortune by the number of home runs he hit, the number of games he played, or the sum of money he earned. Instead, confronting his own mortality, he calculated the worth of his life by the people that surrounded him. For, unlike the countless tangible rewards and honors that were bestowed upon him, the friendships and relationships he established would not perish with his physical passing.

How does the Class of 2000 want to measure its worth? Do we wish to be defined by the jobs that we accept, the salaries we earn, or the number of promotions we receive? Or would we rather be characterized by the unbreakable bonds that we established with the people around us? I would challenge our Class to pursue the latter. My challenge is this: That we should leave this amazing institution with high expectations of what we will accomplish in our years as alumni. That we remain true to VPI's motto of *Ut Prosim*, "That I may serve," honorably serving our community, our family, our church, and our alma mater. Let us remember that we have but one chance on earth to dedicate ourselves to the task of helping our fellow man. If we give of ourselves, we give the most appreciated gift, and the one gift which no sum of money can possibly buy.

As we pen these final lines in the collegiate chapters of our lives, surrounded by family, friends, faculty, and peers, let us remember that we should strive to define ourselves by these relationships, and not by those material items that will surely fade into our past. If we can accomplish this goal, we can say with confidence, just as Lou Gehrig did, that we are luckiest people on the face of the earth. God bless each one of you, and God bless Virginia Tech. Thank You.

SPEECH OF LAUREN ESLEECK, CLASS
PRESIDENT

Today, we are here in celebration of a truly significant occasion and may I begin by saying, "Congratulations".

The Class of 2000 Motto is "With Honor there is Power, with Character there is Strength." Recently our Class bestowed a gift to Virginia Tech which certainly reflects this theme. The Class of 2000 has chosen to present the university with a new mace, symbolizing the power and strength Virginia Tech has achieved through both her honor and character. During the Founder's Day

celebration the Class of 2000 presented Dr. Charles Steger with the new mace immediately following his installation as President of Virginia Tech. Our university's mace has long been a symbol of our tradition of excellence and our Class is fortunate to have contributed a gift to Virginia Tech which will ensure this tradition continues. The new mace, created by Steve Bickley, is resting here on stage. It is a gold-plated contemporary design bearing 3 different seals of the university:

The official university seal affixed to Hokiestone;

The centennial seal from 1972; and

The earliest seal of the university—dating back to 1872.

It also includes 8 spires representing each of the pylons.

Thank you the Class of 2000 for such a tremendous gift.

During this time of excitement and celebration, I have 2 wishes for the Class of 2000. I hope that:

1. We view our Class motto not as a statement, but as a goal;
2. That we be humble.

Again, the Class of 2000 Motto is, "With Honor there is Power, with Character there is Strength."

I encourage you to view our motto not as a statement, but as a goal because I hope that we strive to achieve personal strength and power by developing both our character and honor.

Character. Please allow me to borrow some thoughts on the importance of character from General Charles Krulak of the U.S. Marine Corp. Character is the moral courage that is within each of us. Everyday we have to make decisions. It is through this decision making process that we show those around us the quality of our character. The majority of decisions we make are "no brainers." Deciding whether to eat at West End Market or Owens is not going to test your character. . . . judgment maybe, but not character. The true test of character comes when the stakes are high, when the chips are down, when your gut starts to turn, when you know the decision you are about to make may not be popular, but it is to be made. That's when your true character is exposed.

Success in life has always demanded a depth of character. Those who can reach deep within themselves and draw upon an inner strength, fortified by strong values, always carry the day against those of lesser character.

Honor. Honor is captured by two essential ingredients—honesty and integrity. I hope that we may each find the courage to be not only true to others, but also true to ourselves—a far more difficult challenge. Such uninhibited self-evaluation will provide endless opportunities for personal growth and development.

Perhaps the most important determinant of integrity is work ethic. Hard work and determination have earned us the degrees we celebrate today. A wise man once said, "It is amazing how many people who work very hard are damn lucky." While hard work may often go unrecognized, it will undoubtedly further one's integrity. Both integrity and honesty are essential to achieving honor. Likewise, both honor and character are essential to achieving power and strength.

My second and final wish is that we may each be humble.

Two of the simplest words in the English language are too often forgotten. Thank you. At a time when it is also appropriate to offer thanks. None of us have walked this journey